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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Cocaine and Marijuana Seized at Checkpoint Nearly \$300,000 in Narcotics Discovered Last Night

San Clemente, California - More than 50 pounds of marijuana and 27 pounds of cocaine were discovered by Border Patrol agents working the I-5 checkpoint near San Clemente last night.

Agents watched as the nervous driver of a Dodge Dakota approached the checkpoint. Visible through the vehicle's grill were several duct-taped packages secured to the car. Agents directed the vehicle to the secondary inspection area for a closer look. The 28 year-old Mexican national watched as "Kadaca," a Border Patrol detector dog, confirmed the agents' suspicions. Three bundles of marijuana were recovered from behind the vehicle's front bumper, along with 16 other bundles hidden in throughout the automobile. A total of 52.8 pounds, valued at \$18,480, was discovered.

Two hours later, agents referred a Toyota Camry to the secondary inspection area. The visually shaking driver, a 23 year-old Mexican national and legal permanent resident, was unable to open the trunk for inspection. Once again, "Kadaca" alerted agents to the presence of narcotics. A close inspection of the undercarriage revealed several hidden compartments holding ten bundles of cocaine. Agents recovered 27.2 pounds, valued at \$272,000.

Border Patrol agents in San Diego County have seized more than \$2.2 million worth of illegal narcotics since October 1st.

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Digital photos available